

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

Youth Waterfowl Hunt



Welcome to Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service established the refuge in 1958 primarily for migratory birds. Public hunting is a priority public use and can provide a quality recreational experience when pursued responsibly. We allow hunting of geese, ducks and coots in accordance with State laws and the following refuge specific regulations.

We host a Youth Waterfowl Hunt for youth hunters between 12-15 years of age. The youth hunt is held on the Saturday of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Youth Hunt Weekend. Participants must pre-register by completing a Waterfowl Lottery Application form which can be obtained in person or by mail from the refuge office or from our website at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Iroquois/visit/visitor_activities.html. On the form, complete items 1, 2, 3, and 6a. For item 6 write, type or select "Youth Hunt" from the drop down menu. At item 7, sign on the Hunter Signature line. In order to take part in the program, participants need their parent or guardian to sign on the Guardian Signature line (7a). Please leave all other items blank. Applications are accepted from August 15th - September 15th. If that falls on a weekend, applications will be accepted until the following Monday. We will not accept faxed or electronic application forms.

The program is free but space is limited to 25 with preference given to first time participants; therefore pre-registration does not guarantee participation.

If selected, participants must attend an orientation program held in September or October. The orientation covers:

- 1) waterfowl identification (optional for those who already have a

Waterfowl Education Certificate of Qualification)

- 2) hunting regulations, safety, equipment, a retriever demonstration and a trap shoot. Attendance is mandatory except for those who have been through the program at least twice.

Before the day of the hunt, participants must have a non-hunting guide who will coach them, as well as help call in birds if needed. The refuge cannot guarantee guides for every youth hunter. We strongly encourage participants to make their own arrangements. Parents or guardians may serve as non-hunting guides. Guides must have a valid NY State hunting license, valid duck stamp and a Waterfowl ID Education Certificate.

We will assign stands through a random drawing on the day of the hunt at the Waterfowl Permit Station at 5 am. The permit fees are waived for this program.

We allow waterfowl hunting from designated stand markers in Cayuga, Mohawk, and Oneida Pools. There are a limited number of free roam permits available for Mohawk Pool. All other areas are closed.

Hunt times are hour before legal sunrise until noon. Check out by returning your Migratory Bird Hunt Report form to the Waterfowl Permit Station no later than 1:00 p.m.

- You may possess no more than 25 approved nontoxic shot shells in the field.
- Each hunter must provide and use minimum of six decoys. Decoys reduce the chance of crippled birds.
- You must stay within 100 feet (30 m) of your designated stand marker

unless you are dispatching a crippled bird.

- Do not remove or alter vegetation around your hunt stand marker; No permanent structures are allowed.
- Consult the Waterfowl Hunting fact sheet for information on additional waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Hunters with Disabilities

One hunt stand is available for hunters with permanent physical challenges who possesses or can meet and document the qualifications for obtaining a New York State non-ambulatory hunting license. Individuals with disabilities should contact the refuge so that reasonable accommodations can be made.

Vehicles

Vehicles are only allowed on established roads marked open for vehicular travel. Vehicles must be parked off the lane of travel and clear of gate. ATVs and snowmobiles are not allowed.

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
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www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois
www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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